

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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AMCONSUL FRANKFURT UNN

AMCONSUL STUTTGART UNN

AMCONSUL MUNICH UNN

USMISSION BERLIN UNN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB/ GW

SUBJECT: DGB WEEKLY MINIMIZES ANTI- AMERICANISM IN FRG

1. SUMMARY THE GERMAN FEDERATION' S (DGB) WEEKLY WELT DER ARBEIT (APRIL 6) HAS JOINED THE LIST OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC (SPD) AND PRO- SPD SPOKESMEN WHO HAVE RECENTLY DOWNPLAYED " ANTI- AMERICANISM" IN THE FRG. UNDER THE HEADING " ESTRANGEMENT FROM THE BIG BROTHER", THE NEWSPAPER CHARGED THAT ALLEGED ANTI- AMERICANISM IN THE FRG HAS BEEN OVERDRAMATIZED BY AMERICAN MASS MEDIA AND EXPLOITED BY " THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN CREATING MAJOR DISTURBANCS IN GERMAN- AMERICAN RELATIONS" INCLUDING THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS (JUSOS) WHO ARE PICTURED AS BEING NAIVE, AND OPPOSITION LEADER DR. RAINER BARZEL. THE ARTICLE CITES A CRITICAL ATTITUDE AMONG GERMAN CITIZENS TOWARDS THE US AS A NATURAL DEVELOPMENT GROWING OUT OF US INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM AND RACIAL RIOTS IN THE US, BUT CONCLUDES THAT THE TIES BETWEEN THE US AND THE FRG ARE TOO DEEPLY ROOTED TO TAKE SERIOUSLY ANY TALK OF AN ANTI- AMERICAN WAVE. A SUMMARY OF THE ARTICLE FOLLOWS. END SUMMARY

2. RECENT CHARGES BY CDU CHAIRMAN DR. RAINER BARZEL THAT IN THE GOVERNMENT CAMP " A GROWING NEUTRALISM AND ANTI- AMERICANISM IS GOING HAND IN HAND WITH A DENOUNCEMENT OF ANTI- COMMUNISM" IS A MISINTERPRETATION OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN US- FRG RELATIONS DESIGNED TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT GERMAN- AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE DETERIORATING. A CRITICAL ATTITUDE AMONG GERMAN CITIZENS TOWARD THE USA IN RECENT YEARS HAS DEVELOPED, MOTIVATED BY THE US INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM AND RACIAL RIOTS IN THE USA. BUT " IS IT REALLY HOSTILITY VIS- A- VIS THE US OF THE GERMAN FINANCE MINISTER IN WASHINGTON OPPOSES HIGHER OFFSET PAYMENTS FOR US TROOPS STATIONED IN THE FRG, OR IS THIS NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS DUTIES? DO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT' S EFFORTS FOR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE ON TRADE POLICY BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE PARTNER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC NOT EXPRESS THE DESIRE FOR RATIONAL COOPERATION RATHER THAN AN ESTRANGEMENT FROM THIS PARTNER? TO RAISE THESE QUESTIONS MEANS TO ANSWER THEM."

3. THE CHANCELLOR (BRANDT) CANNOT DISCOVER ANY CONCRETE REASON FOR AN ANTI- AMERICAN PSYCHOSIS AND VIEWS THE APPEARANCE OF ANTI- UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICANISM AS BEING SHORT- LIVED. NEVERTHELESS, CERTAIN DEVELOPMENTS HAVE RESULTED IN OVER- DRAMATIZED REPORTS AND COMMENTS IN AMERICAN MASS MEDIA. MINISTER SCHMIDT' S ANNOUNCEMENT IN WASHINGTON THAT THE SPD LEADERSHIP WILL SHARPLY OPPOSE ANTI- AMERICAN STATEMENTS AT THE HANNOVER CONVENTION MUST BE VIEWED AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND.

4. DISTURBANCES IN THE ATMOSPHERE CANNOT BE ACCURATELY MEASURED, AND IT IS THEREFORE RELATIVELY EASY TO MISINTERPRET CONCRETE EVENTS. A TYPICAL EXAMPLE IS A PROTEST ACTION INITIATED BY NUMEROUS NUERNBERG CITIZENS AGAINST THE EXTENSION OF A US TRAINING AREA THAT ENDED IN A DEMONSTRATION BEFORE THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BAD GODESBERG. THIS EVENT PARTICULARLY HAS BEEN INCORRECTLY PRESENTED IN US MASS MEDIA AS AN EXPRESSION OF ANTI- AMERICAN ATTITUDES. IN REALITY, IT SIMPLY WAS AN ACTION OF CITIZENS WITHOUT ANY POLITICAL BACKGROUND. THE FACT THAT THE DEMONSTRATORS INCLUDED ADHERENTS OF ALL DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL PARTIES SHOWS THAT THE ACTION WAS NOT MOTIVATED BY IDEOLOGY OR FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS.

5. SIMILAR PROTESTS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED FOR SOME TIME AGAINST THE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS OPERATED BY OTHER NATO PARTNERS AND THE FRG MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, AND EVEN AGAINST CIVILIAN INSTALLATIONS WHICH ARE CONSIDERED AS DISTURBING, INCONVENIENT OR DANGEROUS. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANTI- AMERICANISM.

6. HOWEVER, THE SITUATION IS DIFFERENT WHEN CONSIDERING CERTAIN STATEMENTS RECENTLY MADE BY THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS (JUSOS) IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORTHCOMING SPD CONVENTION IN HANNOVER. IN FACT, THERE ARE SOME MOTIONS TO THE CONVENTION WHICH REAFFIRM THE CONDEMNATION OF THE TERMINATED US ENGAGEMENT IN VIETNAM. NEVERTHELESS, THESE MOTIONS ARE NO MORE " ANTI- AMERICAN" THAN THE CRITICAL ATTITUDE OF MANY RESPECTABLE US CITIZENS TO THE WAR IN VIETNAM.

7. ANOTHER MOTION FOR THE SPD CONVENTION IS AIMED AT THE IMMEDIATE TERMINATION OF GERMAN OFFSET PAYMENTS AND WILL THUS SUPPLY AMMUNITION NOT ONLY TO THE OPPOSITION IN THE FRG, BUT TO THE ISOLATIONISTS IN THE USA. HOWEVER, THIS ALSO DOES NOT JUSTIFY THE CONCLUSION OF A " WAVE OF ANTI- AMERICANISM." SUCH (JUSO) IDEAS ARE PARTLY BASED ON POLITICAL NAIVETE, ON AN ASSUMPTION THAT THE PRESENT PHASE OF DETENTE POLICY PERMITS DISARMAMENT.

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8. IN ANY CASE, IT WILL REQUIRE A HIGH DEGREE OF EDUCATION TO DISPERSE ILLUSIONS ON SECURITY POLICY. THE SPD LEADERSHIP IN HANNOVER SHOULD SPEAK A VERY CLEAR LANGUAGE PARTICULARLY IN THIS MATTER AND

SHOULD FIND VERY BROAD APPROVAL. THERE CAN BE ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT THAT BRANDT' S POLICY OF DETENTE WOULD BE DEEMED TO FAILURE QUICKLY WITHOUT A WELL- FUNCTIONING WESTERN ALLIANCE.

9. CERTAINLY, IT IS MATTER OF FACT TAHAT GERMAN CITIZENS HAVE DEVELOPED CONSIDERABLE AND COMPREHENSIBLE " IRRITATIONS" VIS- A- VIS THE POWERFUL ALLY IN RECENT YEARS. THIS WAS MOTIVATED BY THE AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM AND THE RACIAL RIOTS IN THE USA. HOWEVER, THERE CAN CERTAINLY BE NO TALK OF AN ANTI- AMEIRCAN WAVE AT PRESENT. THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE USA AND THE FRG DEPEND UPON ONE ANOTHER IS TOO DEEPLY ROOTED. THIS APPLIES PARTICULARLY TO THE POLICY OF DETENTE WHERE THERE IS A CLEAR AND TESTED CON- CENUS BETWEEN THE USA AND THE FRG.

10. IT SHOULD BE STATED: THOSE WHO TEND TO INFLATE SECONDARY APPEARANCES ONLY HELP THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN CREATING MAJOR DISTURBANCES IN GERMAN- AMERICAN RELATIONS. (END OF ARTICLE SUMMARY). HILLENBRAND

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